

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, EEWT, UR, US, FR, GW, UK
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS RETURNS TO ATTACK ON EXPORT
CONTROLS

REF: (A) BONN 15192, (B) MOSCOW 18711 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON U.S. EXPORT
CONTROL ACTIONS DECLINED SHARPLY AFTER APPROVAL OF
THE ESSENTIAL EXPORT LICENSE FOR DRESSER INDUSTRIES
(NOT YET REPORTED IN THE SOVIET PRESS), BUT IT PICKED
UP A BIT AGAIN TODAY. IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ATTACKS - BUT
IN LESS EXTREME TERMS THAN PREVIOUSLY - "CERTAIN
POLITICAL CIRCLES" IN THE U.S. FOR TRYING TO COMPEL
OTHER COUNTRIES "NOT EVEN TO THINK ABOUT" SELLING
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"VARIOUS EQUIPMENT" TO THE USSR. ARTICLE SAYD U.S.
RECEIVED "FRIENDLY REJECTION" FROM FRANCE AND FRG, AND
IT CLOSES WITH SHARP ATTACK ON LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL
FOR ALLEGEDLY SAYING THAT SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE
A SUBJECT OF SPECIAL CONCERN FOR WESTERN POWERS. END
SUMMARY.

1. AUGUST 21 IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY V. PETUSENKO CONTINUES COVERAGE OF U.S. EFFORT TO OBTAIN COOPERATION OF ALLIES IN DENIAL OF COMPUTER SALES TO TASS. PETUSENKO STATES THAT CERTAIN POLITICAL CIRCLES IN U.S. ARE ATTEMPTING TO COMPEL FRANCE, THE FRG, THE UK, AND JAPAN TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF "VARIOUS EQUIPMENT" TO THE USSR, SPECIFICALLY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SIMILAR TO SPERRY RAND'S.

2. THE COMMENTARY CLAIMS THAT US PARTNERS VIEW THE US REQUEST AS A PROJECT DICTATED BY QUESTIONABLE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND WHICH IS HARMFUL TO US GIVEN ITS PRESENT TRADE AND EXCHANGE RATE PROBLEMS. PETUSENKO STATES THAT THE US REQUEST HAS RECEIVED A "FRIENDLY REJECTION," BUT AS EVIDENCE OF THIS CITES ONLY FRENCH MFA STATEMENT THAT FRANCE'S TRADE IS NOT RELATED TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND STATEMENT BY SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FRIEDRICH. (REF A) BRITISH BUSINESSMEN ARE HELD TO HAVE REACTED SKEPTICALLY TO THE US REQUEST. NO JAPANESE REACTION IS RE.

3. COMMENTARY CONCLUDES WITH SHARP RESPONSE TO LONDON TIMES EDITORIAL WHICH REPORTEDLY STATED THAT INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE USSR ARE SUBJECT OF SPECIAL CONCERN FOR WESTERN POWERS. PETUSENKO REJECTS ARGUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN USSR IN STANDARD TERMS, AND REPEATS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEME THAT REACTIONARY CIRCLES IN THE WEST THROUGH "PROVOCATIVE COMBINATIONS" IN THE AREA OF TRADE, ARE TRYING TO RETURN THE WORLD TO THE COLD WAR, AN EFFORT THAT WILL INEVITABLY MISFIRE.

4. COMMENT. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON U.S. EXPORT CONTROL ACTIONS DECLINED SHARPLY FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPROVAL OF EXPORT LICENSE FOR DRESSER INDUSTRIES (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN REPORTED IN SOVIET PRESS). PETUSENKO COMMENTARY, WHILE EXPANDING U.S. REQUEST ON COMPUTER SALES TO INCLUDE "VARIOUS EQUIPMENT" IS LESS EXTREME IN TONE THAN AUGUST 6 PRAVDA COMMENTARY (REF B). TOON

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